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Walden Woods Project Acquires Brister's Hill Site

Michael O'Connor

[Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the author's "Recreation" column in the *Boston Herald* of 27 April 1993, page 65. We thank Abigail Rorer for bringing this article to our attention.]

Hikers, anglers, paddlers, swimmers, and every other appreciator of the outdoors, in particular Walden Pond and its fragile environs, have reason to smile this day.

An amble the other morning across the countryside that Thoreau once traipsed brought home how important was last Tuesday's announcement that the Walden Woods Project had succeeded in protecting Brister's Hill.

The 19-acre tract, located kitty-corner to Walden Pond State Park across Route 2, is an inauspicious plot.

Indeed, most people whiz by at 50 mph, bound elsewhere, east or west. The tract is rutted over and hardly a hill at all. Small pines, scrub conifers, and half-hearted birch groves dominate, and surveyor's stakes and ribbons are firmly in place. Only the scarlet spring burst of staghorn sumac lends real color.

All that said, Brister's Hill is a critical addition to the burgeoning greenbelt of protected open space at Walden. Thoreau scholars have just brought to fruition a "new" book by America's first environmentalist, "Faith in a Seed," which reveals his theories of forest succession. Those studies were based in part on his observations at Brister's Hill.

With singer-songwriter Don Henley at its helm, the Walden Woods Project, working with the Trust for Public Land and state environmental agencies, has succeeded over the past three years in preserving 70 acres in the vicinity of Walden Pond.

There was a 25-acre purchase at Bear Garden Hill overlooking the Sudbury River in 1991, followed by an additional 25 acres in 1992. The Brister's Hill coup caps what many had felt was a quixotic flailing at the march of progress, i.e.,

development.

Real estate-publishing mogul Mort Zuckerman's Boston Properties had purchased the site almost a decade ago for an office building-parking complex. Zuckerman and Henley, neither of whom lack for ego or feistiness, clashed formidably. Negotiations for Walden Woods to buy the site from Boston Properties faltered.

On the state side, the Department of Environmental Management had made some acquisition funds available under former Secretary Susan Tierney, but suddenly, she was being called to join the Clinton Administration.

"Susan called us to say she was leaving in three weeks and that window of opportunity might close because she couldn't guarantee the funding once she was gone," Henley recalled. "That really put the pressure on for all of us to make a settlement." Which resulted in last week's good news.

Naysayers suggest that the idea of a pristine and isolated "Walden Woods preserve" is ludicrous, given that the area is bisected by busy Route 2 and Route 126. Indeed, the Concord town dump is right across the street.

"But Thoreau was a supporter of land preservation within populated areas," argues Walden Woods executive director Kathi Anderson. "And this area remains a single ecological unit, despite the roads."

Across 126, fishermen were already patrolling the waters and shoreline of Walden Pond. The pond, like many on Cape Cod (another favorite Thoreau destination), is glacial; the retreating Ice Age left a sandy, gravelly bottom that acts as a continuing filter and helps guarantee a sparkling clarity to the water.

From the surface, a swimmer or paddler can see 60 feet down.

Peter Forbes of the Trust for Public Land said the four-year battle to preserve the area may help others see their ecological future more clearly.

"Something we thought was impossible has come around," Forbes said. "We think this can send a powerful message to people: Every community has a Walden Pond."

Congratulations WWP!

W. S. Merwin on Thoreau

[Editor's Note: The following excerpt is from an interview of the Pulitzer Prize winning poet W. S. Merwin by Ed Folsom and Cary Nelson on 11 October 1981, which originally appeared in the *Iowa Review* and was reprinted in *American Poetry Observed: Poets on Their Work*, ed. Joe David Bellamy (Urbana: U of Illinois Press, 1984), pp. 168-80. We are grateful to W. S. Merwin and David Hamilton, editor of the *Iowa Review*, for permission to reprint this excerpt here.]

Folsom: You have said that when you go back to nineteenth-century American writers for a sustaining influence, it's not Whitman you turn to, but Thoreau. I think a lot of people throw Whitman and Thoreau together as part of the American transcendental and romantic tradition. What draws you to Thoreau that doesn't draw you to Whitman?

Merwin: I suppose the way in which he meant "In wildness is the preservation of the world," for one thing. Or the recognition that the human cannot exist independently in a natural void; whatever the alienation is that we feel from the natural world, we are not in fact alienated, so we cannot base our self-righteousness on that difference. We're a part of that whole thing. And the way Thoreau—very differently from Whitman, even in a paragraph—takes his own perception and develops it into a deeper and deeper way of seeing something—the actual seeing in Thoreau is one of the things that draws me to him. I think that Thoreau saw in a way that nobody had quite seen before. It was American in that sense.

I don't know if Williams talks about Thoreau, but I would have liked to hear what Williams had to say about Thoreau's capacity to see, even though Williams's great sympathy is more toward Whitman. Indeed I've suspected for a long time that an American poet's sympathy would tend to go either toward Whitman or toward Thoreau, not toward both. Gary Snyder at this point is rather snippy about Thoreau, says he's very uptight, WASP, and so forth. That's a way of describing Thoreau's weaknesses all right—such as his lack of any automatic spontaneous sympathy for his fellow human beings. Thoreau is not all-embracing. The kind of hawkish thing in Thoreau puts off the enthusiasts of enthusiasm itself, the great Whitmanite hugs of feeling, the lovers, "I love my fellow man." Perhaps if you really are there you don't have to say it so often and so loudly.

Dana recently has been reading Henry James and Thoreau and getting very impatient with

James and reading a passage of Thoreau and saying, "You know, for James the natural world is scenery outside the window." There's never anything alive out there. But for Thoreau, when he sees it, it's alive, completely alive, not a detail in a piece of rhetoric. And he leaves open what its significance is. He realizes that the intensity with which he's able to see it is its significance. This is

The last page of *Walden* is certainly one of the most beautiful things ever written...

W. S. Merwin

an immense gesture of wisdom in Thoreau that I miss in Whitman. Whitman's wonderful expansive enthusiasm isn't there in Thoreau, though he has things of equal beauty and power. The last page of *Walden* is certainly one of the most beautiful things ever written, and of a kind of elevation that Whitman himself was trying to reach all the time.

Nelson: Has Thoreau been behind some of the prose that you've written recently? You're writing about your family and your past, which are very different topics from his, but there's a certain humility about phenomenal existence that I see both in Thoreau and in these pieces from *Unframed Originals*.

Merwin: I hadn't thought of that, Cary; that's interesting. Maybe so, who knows?

Folsom: Certainly that position you put yourself in at the end of "A House Abroad"—the position of moving into that house only so far, not wanting to clear the floor and put panes in the windows and paint the walls, but rather only lie there on a simple cot—is a very Thoreau-like position. It's like his bean-field: half-cultivated and half-wild.

Merwin: Yes. I guess that's part of what I was talking about a minute ago. That's a wonderful way of putting it, too—his humility before the phenomenal world. If you don't accept the genuine chairiness of the chair, if it's all just background, as it is for a great many people in the contemporary world—first the separation from the natural world, then from the phenomenal world—things tend to be seen only in terms of their uses, or in terms of what abstraction they can serve. If the reality of the unreal objects cannot be accepted as an infinite thing in them, you can't see anything. You only see counters in a game that is of very doubtful value.

Additions to the Thoreau Bibliography

Walter Harding

- Adams, Stephan and Donald Ross. *Revising Mythologies*. Review: *Review*, 13 (1991): 249-60.
- Banfield, E. J. *The Confessions of a Beach Comber*. Auckland, N.Z.: Angus & Robertson, 1991. 221pp. A new edition of this classic account of a Thoreau disciple's life on an Australian desert isle.
- Basney, Lionel. "Thoreau's Designs." *Christianity & Literature*, 40 (Summer 1991): 383-90.
- Birch, Thomas D. and Fred Metting. "The Economic Design of Walden." *New England Quarterly*, 65 (December 1992): 587-602.
- Burbick, Joan. *Thoreau's Alternative History*. Review: *Review* 12 (1990): 53-67.
- Dillon, Bustin. "New England Prologue: Thoreau, Anti-Modernism, and Folk Culture." In *Folk Roots. New Roots. Folklore in American Life*. Edited by Jane Becker, et al. Lexington: Museum of Our National Heritage, 1988. Pp. 1-6.
- Dean, William J. "Thoreau's Path in New York City." *Christian Science Monitor*, 23 December 1992.
- Dillman, Richard. *Essays on Henry David Thoreau: Rhetoric, Style and Audience*. West Cornwall, Conn.: Locus Hill Press, 1993. 137pp. \$25. Gathers together in one volume Dillman's scattered essays on Thoreau's rhetoric (revised) and adds a new one on what E. B. White, Annie Dillard, and Loren Eiseley share with Thoreau in style and themes.
- Emerson, Ralph W. "A Walk with Thoreau." *Country Gentleman*, 20 (31 July 1862): 82. An excerpt from Emerson's eulogy.
- Every Other Saturday*. "Henry D. Thoreau." 2 (29 August 1885): 275.
- Feinsilber, Mike. "Inaugural Addresses Commonly Have Plagiarism." *Holland [Michigan] Sentinel*, 13 January 1993. On Roosevelt's deriving his "nothing to be feared but fear itself" from Thoreau.
- Gleason, Sarah C. "After Thoreau." *Providence Journal*, 3 January 1993. Tracing Thoreau's travels in the Maine woods.
- Gura, Philip. "Traveling Much in Concord." *ESQ*, 38 (1992): 71-85. Essay review on much recent Thoreau scholarship.
- Harding, Walter. *The Days of Henry Thoreau*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1993. 503pp. A new paperback edition with a new afterword discussing recent Thoreau scholarship.
- . *The Same*. Translation of Chapter 13 into Japanese by Koh Kasegawa. *Shi to Sambun* 52 (November 1992): 37-48.
- Harrison, Robert P. "The Woods of Walden." In *Forests: The Shadow of Civilization*. U Chicago P, 1992. Pp. 220-32. Walden is a reminder that we have failed to take heed of Thoreau's message.
- Henley, Don. *Thoreau's Walden Woods: A Calendar of Thoughts and Images for 1993*. Stamford, Conn.: Longmeadow Press, 1992. A beautiful wall calendar.
- Jahanpour, Farhang. "Oriental Influences in American Literature during the 19th Century." In *Other Voices, Other Views*. Edited by Robin Weeks. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1978. Pp. 55-66. Includes comments on Thoreau.
- Lind, L. R. "19th Century American Attitudes towards the Classics." *Classical & Modern Literature*, 12 (Fall 1991): 7-14.
- Modenhauer, Joseph. "Textual Instability in the Riverside Edition of Thoreau." *Papers of the Bibliographic Society of America*, 85 (December 1991): 347-419. A tremendously thorough and detailed study of textual changes in the plates of the Riverside Edition of Thoreau's works over the years.
- Rougé, Bertrand. "The Apexes of What Wonderful Triangles." *Etudes Anglaises*, 44 (October 1991): 428-43.
- Ryan, George. "Love of Thoreau's Life a Remarkable Woman." *Quincy (Massachusetts) Patriot Ledger*, 7 December 1992. A particularly fine and detailed account of Ellen Sewall on the 100th anniversary of her death.
- Seal, Cheryl. *Thoreau's Maine Woods Yesterday and Today*. Emmaus, Pa.: Yankee Books, 1992. 183pp. \$24.95. A large format collection of color photographs of the Maine woods by Robert Bukaty accompanied by appropriate quotations from Thoreau, plus a lively short biography of Thoreau emphasizing his Maine woods experiences, and a sobering essay on current destruction of the Maine woods.
- Sherwood, Mary P. *Henry David Thoreau: How Great a Son of Concord*. Concord, Mass.: Walden Forever Wild, [1993]. 27pp. A very homey, human short biography of Thoreau "created to help citizens of Concord appreciate and better understand Thoreau. Copies have been distributed to every household in Concord.
- Southwick, Albert. "Thoreau's Drumbeat Is Still Being Heard." *Boston Globe*, 7 July 1991.
- Suberchicot, Alain. "L'Oeuvre Poétique de H. D. Thoreau." *Etudes Anglaises*, 44 (1991): 296-308.
- Synodinos, J. A. "Some Advice to the Graduates, From Henry David Thoreau." *Vital Speeches of the Day*, 59 (1 November 1992): 54-56.
- Thoreau, Henry D. *Excursions*. Review: *New England Farmer*, 18 (21 November 1863): 2; *Country Gentleman*, 12 November 1863.
- . "Extracts from Thoreau." *Country Gentleman*, 12 June 1862. Excerpts from *Walden*, with a notice of his death.
- . *Letters to Various Persons*. Review: *New England Farmer*, 5 August 1865.
- . *The Maine Woods*. Review: *New England Farmer*, 18 June 1864.
- . "The Rain of the Law: Thoreau's Translation of the Lotus Sutra." *Tricycle: The Buddhist Review*, 2 (Winter 1992): 8-9. With commentary by Wendell Piez.
- . "The Succession of Forest Trees." *Country Gentleman*, 7 (16, 23, 30 May and 6 June 1861). An abridged, serialized reprinting.
- . *Walden and Other Writings*. Edited by Brooks Atkinson. Review: *Laissez Faire Books*, 103 (February 1993): 15.
- . *A Yankee in Canada*. Review: *New England Farmer*, 3 November 1866.
- Tripathy, Shrinibas. "A Transcendentalist's Eye View of Evil: Thoreau on the Institution of Caste in Hinduism." *Journal of Literary Studies*, 14 (June 1990): 33-40.
- Turner, Frederick. "The Music of a Thought." *Orion*, (Summer 1992): 33-37. A beautiful tribute to Thoreau in face of the continuing destruction of Walden Pond.
- Warner, Michael. "Walden's Erotic Economy." In *Comparative American Identities*. Edited by Hortense Spillers. New York: Routledge, 1991. Pp. 137-74.
- Werkenthin, Karen. "Following the Paths of Thoreau and Dillard." *English Journal*, 81 (October 1992): 26-29.

The 1993 Annual Meeting

As we mentioned in the last bulletin, the Society's 1993 annual meeting will be held in Concord, Massachusetts, from Thursday, 8 July, to Monday, 12 July. The business meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, 10 July, in the main hall of Concord's First Parish Church. Well-known Thoreau scholar Robert D. Richardson, Jr., will deliver the keynote address on "The Stalk of the Lotus: Concord's Most Famous Friendship." For further details about the annual meeting, including lodging and dining arrangements at the Concord Academy, refer to the handout sent with the last bulletin or call the Thoreau Lyceum at (508) 369-5912. Remember that **the deadline for all reservations is 15 June**. Although we encourage you to meet the deadline, reservations

col. 4), 18 June 1864 (p. 2, col. 4), 5 August 1865 (p. 2, col. 3), and 3 November 1866 (p. 2, col. 3), respectively, all under the "New Publications" column.]

EXCURSIONS. By Henry D. Thoreau. Boston:

Ticknor & Fields. 319 pages. Price \$1.25.

No man has lived in this country about whom there will always be more diversity of opinion than the author of this book. Elevated to the highest place in the estimation of those who feel in sympathy with him, he is also laughed at and derided by others, who cannot appreciate the finer traits of his genius. But whatever may be said of his philosophy, it can be truly said of the man that for purity of character and true nobleness of soul his better does not live. His life for the last twenty years was spent in intimate

My profession is to be always on the alert to find God in nature, to know his lurking-places, to attend all the oratorios, the operas, in nature.

Journal, 7 September 1851

submitted after the 15 June will be accepted if accommodations are available.

Our president, Joel Myerson, informs us that the following authors of Thoreau-related books will attend the annual meeting: Bradley P. Dean, Walter Harding, John Hildebidle, Linck Johnson, Michael Meyer, Joel Myerson, H. Daniel Peck, Robert D. Richardson, Jr., and Richard Schneider. Whether you bring your own copies of their books to the meeting or purchase copies at the Lyceum, these authors will be available for signing books at the Lyceum from 4:00 to 5:45 p.m. Saturday. (The change of time and location for this book-signing party is the only change from the handout on the annual meeting sent with the last bulletin.)

Thoreau Reviews in *The New England Farmer* (1863-1866)

Richard E. Winslow III

[Editor's Note: We have been pleased the last few months to have on occasion received a packet from Winslow containing the fruits of his search for mentions of Thoreau in 19-century newspapers and magazines. These four reviews from *The New England Farmer*, "an agricultural and family newspaper" published weekly in Boston, are just a sampling of his discoveries. The reviews appeared on 21 November 1863 (p. 2,

communion with Nature, and he was thoroughly acquainted with all her moods. By day and night, in summer and winter, in storm and sunshine he was always abroad; and there was not a rod of untilled land within miles of his home which he had not walked upon. The volume before us is composed of essays, mostly upon country themes, and overlooking the peculiarities of his philosophy, is rich in records of the most minute observations of natural laws and phenomena. A biographical sketch by R. W. Emerson opens the volumes, and is a discriminating and merited tribute to the genius and character of its subject.

THE MAINE WOODS. By Henry D. Thoreau, author of "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers," "Walden," &c., &c. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1 vol. 16mo. Price \$1.25.

The three papers in this volume are entitled "Ktaadn;" "Chesuncook;" and "The Allegash and East Branch," and they give such a description of the grand forest and lake scenery of Northern Maine as only such a lover and observer of Nature and her wonderful works as Thoreau could have written. The book cannot fail to interest all.

LETTERS. By H. D. Thoreau. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 229 pages.

This collection of the letter of Mr. Thoreau has been made by Mr. Emerson, who probably knew him more intimately than any one else. Their

THE THOREAU SOCIETY, INC.

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USED BOOKS—COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

- Anderson, Charles, ed. *Thoreau's Vision: The Major Essays*. Prentice-Hall, 1973. An attractive selection of Thoreau's shorter works well introduced and informatively annotated by Anderson. With dust jacket. \$21.00.
- Canby, Henry Seidel. *Thoreau*. Houghton Mifflin, 1939. This volume by the noted American man of letters attracted much attention when it first appeared and remained the standard Thoreau biography for twenty-five years. Some page browning; spine worn. \$22.50.
- Cook, Reginald. *Passage to Walden*. Houghton Mifflin, 1949. The late "Doc Cook," longtime Thoreau Society favorite, investigates the differing views of Thoreau by critics and the paradoxes in the man himself. First edition, with dust jacket. \$25.00.
- Curtis, Edith Roelker. *A Season in Utopia*. Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1961. The story of Brook Farm. First edition, with colorful dust jacket. \$27.50.
- Harding, Walter, ed. *A Bibliography of the Thoreau Society Bulletin Bibliographies, 1941-1969*. Whitston, 1971. A cumulation and index. \$18.50.
- , with George Brenner and Paul Doyle, eds. *Henry David Thoreau: Studies and Commentaries*. Associated Presses, 1972. Interesting essays on Thoreau, his background, and his influence by Lewis Leary, Ruth Wheeler, Alfred Kazin, Muriel Rukeyser, and others. Second (1973) printing, with dust jacket. \$25.00.
- Hendrick, George. *Henry Salt: Humanitarian Reformer and Man of Letters*. U of Illinois, 1977. A basic biography of one of Thoreau's early biographers. With dust jacket. \$18.50.
- Krasemann, Stephen. *Thoreau Revisited: Diary of a Country Year*. Country Beautiful, 1973. The editors of *Outdoor World* magazine put together this attractive oversized volume of Thoreau quotations and more than one hundred full-color photographs. Very good condition, with dust jacket. \$25.00.
- McAleer, John. *Ralph Waldo Emerson: Days of Encounter*. Little, Brown, 1984. This worthwhile biography by the former Thoreau Society president is a pleasure to read because of the astute handling of subject material and plain good humor. First edition. \$20.00.
- Scudder, Townsend. *Concord: American Town*. Little, Brown, 1947. Life in Concord from its founding through World War II. Often fascinating, but weak on the colonial period. With dust jacket. \$20.00.
- Sherwood, Mary P. *Joseph Polis: Thoreau's Maine Guide*. The Stormont Press, Canada, 1970. This pamphlet contains a brief literary portrait of Thoreau's 1857 Penobscot guide. \$10.00.
- Taylor, J. Golden. *Thoreau's Sour Grapes*. Pamphlet reprint from Proceedings of the Utah Academy of Arts and Sciences, volume 42, part 1, 1965. On Thoreau's use of the "sour grapes" symbol in the first chapter of *Walden*. \$5.00.
- Teale, Edwin Way. *The Lost Woods*. Dodd, Mead, 1945. More of Teale's "adventures of a naturalist." Regarded by many as his most moving book. "On the Trail of Thoreau" and "Wildlife at Walden" are two of the chapters. With about two hundred of the author's black-and-white photographs. \$20.00.
- Thoreau, Henry D. *Cape Cod*. Houghton Mifflin Riverside Pocket Edition, 1915. Bound in leather, with dust jacket that is separating along the folds and has been taped along one edge. \$30.00.
- . *Walden*. Heritage Club, 1939. One of the finest illustrated editions of this classic. Features superb wood-engravings by Thomas W. Nason. Book is mint, but slipcase is worn. \$50.00.
- . *The Annotated Walden*. Clarkson N. Potter, 1970. Introduction, notes, and bibliography by Philip Van Doren Stern. First edition, second printing, with dust jacket. \$35.00.
- . *The Variorum Walden*. Washington Square, 1963. This student paperback has sixty-five pages of notes by Thoreau expert Walter Harding. Quite a number of pen markings throughout the book and possibly some moisture damage, but binding is tight. \$10.00.
- Timpe, Eugene, ed. *Thoreau Abroad*. Archon, 1971. Essays on the growth of Thoreau's reputation in twelve countries. Foreword by Walter Harding. Mint. \$18.50.

CURRENT TITLES—CLOTHBOUND

- Borst, Raymond. *Henry David Thoreau: A Bibliography*. The best work of its kind. \$55.00.
- . *Henry David Thoreau: A Reference Guide* to articles about him in 19th-century periodicals. \$35.00.
- . *The Thoreau Log*. A day-by-day account of Thoreau's life. \$75.00.
- Boudreau, Gordon. *The Roots of Walden and the Tree of Life*. The work of a lifetime went into this thoughtful critical-interpretive study. \$23.95.
- Brooks, Paul. *The People of Concord*. Concord in 1846. \$19.95.
- Fink, Steven. *Prophet in the Marketplace*. A good study of how various factors shaped the style and content of Thoreau's writing. \$35.00.
- Golemba, Henry. *Thoreau's Wild Rhetoric*. We highly recommend this book, which reveals much about Thoreau the writer and his time. \$45.00.
- Harding, Walter. *The Days of Henry Thoreau*. This biography has been available for over a quarter of a century and remains as popular as ever. \$63.00.
- Hendrick, George, ed. *Remembrances of Concord and the Thoreaus*. The letters of Horace Hosmer to Dr. S.A. Jones. \$10.50.
- Meyer, Michael. *Several More Lives to Live*. Critical study of the moral, political, and academic perceptions of Thoreau's works in 20th-century America. \$45.00.
- Myerson, Joel, ed. *Critical Essays on Thoreau's Walden*. From the book's publication to today. The best anthology of its kind. \$40.00.
- . *The New England Transcendentalists and the Dial*. About the *Dial* magazine and its contributors. \$32.50.
- Oehlschlager, Fritz and George Hendrick, eds. *Toward the Making of Thoreau's Modern Reputation*. The correspondence of a group of Thoreau enthusiasts as they seek to determine facts about his life. Most interesting and, at times, quite moving. \$20.50.
- Peck, Daniel. *Thoreau's Morning Work*. Memory and perception in *A Week*, the *Journal*, and *Walden*. \$22.50.
- Richardson, Robert D., Jr. *Henry Thoreau: A Life of the Mind*. A superb, insightful intellectual biography, with drawings by Barry Moser. \$35.00.
- Rothwell, Robert, ed. *Henry David Thoreau: An American Landscape*. Journal excerpts focusing on the natural landscape. Illustrated. Introduction by Robert Finch. \$22.95.
- Sattelmeyer, Robert. *Thoreau's Reading*. A bibliographical catalogue of the books Thoreau read, with a fine introductory essay. \$50.00.
- Schofield, Edmund, ed. *Thoreau's World and Ours: A Natural Legacy*. Brand new! A collection of many of the papers read at the Thoreau Society's Jubilee Celebration in July of 1991. \$26.95.
- Stern, Philip Van Doren, ed. *The Annotated Walden*. The recent reprint. \$25.00.

Thoreau, Henry D. *The Journal*. The Dover Publications reprint, in two large volumes, of the 1906 edition. \$130.00.

———. *The Writings of*. Princeton University: *Cape Cod*, \$45.00; *Walden*, \$55.00; *The Maine Woods*, \$65.00; *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, \$60.00; *Translations*, \$32.50; *Early Essays and Miscellanies*, \$65.00; *Reform Papers*, \$45.00; *Journal 1*, \$45.00; *Journal 2*, \$45.00; *Journal 3*, \$39.50; *Journal 4*, \$39.50.

———. *Walden*. Illustrated selections for children by Steve Lowe. \$14.95.

———. *Faith in a Seed*. First publication of Thoreau's *Dispersion of Seeds* manuscript—the last project he worked on—lovingly edited by Thoreau Society Secretary Bradley P. Dean, with a Foreword by Gary Nabhan and an introduction by Robert Richardson. The book contains excellent notes and is illustrated by dozens of small nature drawings. A bonus is the inclusion of the beginning of Thoreau's *Wild Fruits* manuscript. Here is a book for all who love Thoreau, literature, nature, science, and ecology. Here is a book for all who love life. \$25.00.

CURRENT TITLES—PAPERBACK

Blanding, Thomas, and Walter Harding. *A Thoreau Iconography*. The photographs and drawings of Thoreau during his lifetime along with information about them. \$10.00.

Burroughs, John. *Deep Woods*. A good selection of Burroughs’ outdoor adventures, chosen and introduced by Richard Fleck. \$12.95.

Cannon, Barrie Rolleston. *Coming into the Light*. Wonderful nature photography with more than a hint of mysticism accompanied by quotations from Thoreau, Emerson, and others. \$12.95.

Emerson, Ellen Tucker. *The Life of Lidian Jackson Emerson*. A new edition featuring an improved and expanded introduction by editor Delores Bird. \$14.95.

Harding, Walter. *The Days of Henry Thoreau*. The excellent, ever-popular Thoreau biography. \$11.95.

———, ed. *Thoreau as Seen by His Contemporaries*. Accounts of Thoreau by those who knew him. \$6.95.

Homan, Tim, ed. *A Yearning toward Wildness*. Environmental quotations from Thoreau’s works. Illustrated. \$9.95.

Huber, Parker. *The Wildest Country*. This excellent guide to Thoreau’s Maine, full of travel information, history, and photographs, supplements the reading his outdoor classic *The Maine Woods*. \$6.95.

LeBeaux, Richard. *Thoreau's Seasons*. \$17.95. A psychological biography of Thoreau’s later years.

———. *Young Man Thoreau*. \$16.95. A psychological biography of Thoreau’s early years.

McAdow, Ron. *The Concord, Sudbury and Assabet Rivers*. A canoeist’s guide to the area, including natural, geological, and human history. \$13.95.

Moore, Alex. *Concord Authors*. Short literary and bibliographical chronologies. \$4.50.

Older, Julia, and Steve Sherman. *Grand Monadnock*. Color photographs of the mountain and neighboring area, with a lively text. \$15.95.

Richardson, Robert. *Henry Thoreau: A Life of the Mind*. An intellectual biography focusing on Thoreau’s literary and intellectual interests from 1837 on and how they influenced his writing. \$13.00.

Roach, Narilynne. *The Mouse and the Song*. Based on an incident in *Walden*. Small-format storybook. \$3.50.

Shepard, Odell, ed. *The Heart of Thoreau's Journals*. Selections. \$5.95.

Shi, David. *The Simple Life*. A historical look at the ideal of “plain living and high thinking” in American thought. \$10.95.

Stowell, Robert, and William Howarth. *A Thoreau Gazetter*. A book of maps, old and new, of Thoreau’s travels. \$14.95.

Thoreau, Henry D. *Cape Cod*. Introduction by Robert Finch. \$8.95

———. *Essays of Henry David Thoreau*. His finest shorter works selected and well introduced by Richard Dillman. \$11.95

———. *The Maine Woods*. Afterword by Joseph Moldenhauer. \$14.95

———. *Natural History Essays*. Introduction by Robert Sattelmeyer. \$9.95

———. *The River*. A collection of passages from Thoreau’s *Journal* about the rivers in Concord. Edited and with notes by Dudley C. Lunt. \$11.95

———. *Walden*. Introduction by Joyce Carol Oates. \$6.95

———. *Walking*. Small format. \$5.95

———. *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. Introduction by Thomas Blanding. \$9.95

———. *Wild Apples*. Small format. \$4.95.

Wagenknecht, Edward. *Henry David Thoreau: What Manner of Man?* Thoreau the man. \$13.95.

Wheeler, Ruth. *Concord: Climate for Freedom*. An engaging history of the town to the mid-19th century. \$6.95.

Zwinger, Ann and Teale, Edwin Way. *A Conscious Stillness*. Two naturalist-writers and former Thoreau Society presidents on Thoreau’s rivers. This was Teale’s final work. Drawings by Ann Zwinger. \$14.95.

VIDEOTAPES (Please include \$2.00 for shipping)

Concord, Massachusetts. A well-done, informative video tour of historic and literary Concord. Perfect for home or school. 60 minutes. \$24.95.

History of Myself at Walden: Henry David Thoreau. David Barto’s portrayal of Thoreau has been a popular summer feature at Walden Pond for nine years. Comes with a handy study guide. 40 minutes. \$35.00.

Thoreau's Walden: A Video Portrait. Walden Pond captured on film by former television news cameraman David Marlin. Passages from the book are read by Boston radio personality Robert J. Lurtsema. 27 minutes. \$29.95.

POSTERS (Please include \$2.00 for shipping)

Walden Pond. A black-and-white photograph of the pond taken from Thoreau’s Cove in March as the ice is going out. (26” x 30”) \$10.00.

Walden Woods Map. Created by the Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance to raise funds for the Walden Woods Project, this map shows the boundaries of Walden Woods and the primary natural and man-made features of the area, including many locations mentioned by Thoreau. It has a border of autumn-colored leaves, old engravings of Thoreau sites, and the “tonic of wildness” quotation from Walden. Order one and help save Walden Woods. (24” x 36”) \$20.00.

THOREAU BUST

The young Henry Thoreau in plaster, 12” high, by Daniel Altshuler. \$200.00 plus shipping. Also available in bronze. Please contact us for further information.

THOREAU PORTRAIT

Rowse Crayon. Black-and-white glossy, 5” x 7” \$3.50; 8” x 10” \$12.50. Sepia-toned, 5” x 7” \$8.00; 8” x 10” \$16.50.

CALENDAR

Martha Rowse’s “Circle of the Seasons” perennial calendar, featuring favorite Thoreau quotations with Rowse’s distinctive calligraphy. \$10.00.

dates extend over a period of more than twenty years, and they show the same traits of character and modes of thought. Whatever was peculiar in the genius and habits of this man was evidently born in the blood, and we cannot see that years added anything to his eccentricity or intensified in any degree his individuality. We would have liked to see in this volume more letters of a domestic nature, to the members of his own family, if such exist and could have been published without impropriety. Thoreau was neither a cynic nor a hermit, though many so understood him, and of all cature, which he loved and elighted in, we think he loved nothing so well as a true, and elevated human nature.

A YANKEE IN CANADA, with Anti Slavery and Reform Papers. By Henry D. Thoreau. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1 vol. 12mo. 286 pages. Price \$1.50.

It is only since the death of their author that Mr. Thoreau's writings have gained much popular appreciation. The two volumes published during his life were distinguished by great originality and boldness of thought and expression, and while they attracted attention from a small circle of thoughtful critics, their very excellencies made them unpalatable to the general reader. The more recently published volumes of his works, dealing less with abstract thought, and more with the actual and tangible, have found more readers and have received more praise. The principal paper in this, the seventh volume of Mr. Thoreau's writings, and the one which gives the title to the book contains an account of a visit to Canada made in the autumn of 1850. This account is marked by the same close observation, and quaint humor which distinguish his books on Cape Cod, and the Maine woods. Mr. Thoreau had a habit of seeing exactly those things which an ordinary observer would overlook, and of telling of them in so direct and graphic a manner, that his descriptions of even the most commonplace people and scenes are uniformly entertaining and instructive.

The remainder of the present volume is made up of ten papers, mosly on political subjects, all of which have been previously published in various magazines and newspapers. Among them are two remarkable eulogies on John Brown, written in 1859, which seem almost prophetic when read by the light of subsequent events. The papers entitled "Civil Disobedience," "Slavery in Massachusetts," and "Life without Principle," are truly characteristic of their author and show his manner of dealing with political questions on a ground far higher than the platform of any party.

A New Review of A Week, and a Review of A Yankee in Canada Richard E. Winslow III

[Editor's Note: Winslow discovered the first item below in the *Boston Weekly Chronotype* of 9 June 1849, p. 1, col. 5. The other item is from *The Green Mountain Freeman* (Montpelier, Vermont), 10 October 1866, p. 1, col. 1.]

A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS, By Henry D. Thoreau, James Munroe & Co., Boston and Cambridge.

This is what Dr. Edward Beecher would probably call a very naughty book. But we are ready to bet a hat that he has not read it and never will. The style is simple but not without point and sometimes very sharp point. Many will be unkind enough to say that it is Emerson at second hand. But who knows that if Ralph Waldo had not been born there would not have been another Emerson, precisely this Henry D. Thoreau, the product of the same causes? To our task[:] there is in this book a delicious intermixture of landscape painting and philosophy. There is an uncontrollable impatience of chains, and yet the the [sic] playful quietness of a flock of month[-]old lambs. Still we have no doubt that dull and stupid theology is very much damaged by such books, and Matthew Hale Smith and Parson McClure should be a committee to exterminate them.

A YANKEE IN CANADA. With Anti-Slavery and Reform Papers. By Henry D. Thoreau. 1 vol. Boston: Ticknor & Fields.

Thoreau has written much that is worth reading, and much that stimulates thought in others; and the latter kind of writing is rare enough to be valuable. The book before us has the marked characteristics of his pen, piquant, graphic, rich and appreciative in its description of all natural objects, and bold, sharp, aggressive, and often cynical in its criticisms and observations of men and their work. Charity was not a controlling element in his make-up, and *colouer de rose*, except when he was painting nature, was not in much request in his writing. He abhorred society as a pretentious and lying sham, and he had little patience with any form of order or law that did not conform exactly to his idea. He was a non-conformist of the strictest sect, in dress, society, politics and religion, as his writings abundantly prove, and this volume among the rest. And yet there is a freshness, originality, heartiness, and frankness about all his pen has given us, a raciness and flavor of

genius, that make his books exceedingly entertaining. Travelers can gather many useful hints from this extraet from the Yankee in Canada, although the English Author who wrote some years ago a treatise on "Shirking," in which he expounded the duty of maintaining one's dignity and keeping up appearances, would undoubtedly take issue with this philosophy of traveling. Thoreau says:

Well, I thought to myself, here I am in a foreign country; let me have my eyes about me, and take it all in. It already looked and felt a great deal colder than it had in New England, as we might have expected it would. I realized fully that I was four degrees nearer the pole, and shuddered at the thought; and I wonder if it was possible that the peaches might not all be gone when I returned. It was an atmosphere that made me think of the fur trade, which is so interesting a department in Canada, for I had as head-covering a thin palm-leaf hat without lining, that cost twenty-five cents, and over my coat one of those unspeakably cheap, as well as thin, brown linen sacks of the Oak Hall pattern, which every summer appear all over New England, thick as the leaves upon the trees. It was a thoroughly Yankee costume, which some of my fellow-travelers wore in the cars to save their coats a dusting. I wore mine, at first, because it looked better than the coat it covered, and last, because two coats were warmer than one, though one was thin and dirty. I never wear my best coat on a journey, though perchance I could show a certificate to prove that I have a more costly one, at least, at home, if that were all that a gentleman required. It is not wise for a traveler to go dressed. I should no more think of it than of putting on a clean dicky and blacking my shoes to go a-fishing; as if you were going out to dine, when, in fact, the genuine traveler is going out to work hard, and fare harder, -- to eat a crust by the wayside whenever he can get it. Honest traveling is about as dirty work as you can do, and a man needs a pair of overalls for it. As for blacking my shoes in such a case, I should as soon think of blacking my face. I carry a piece of tallow to preserve the leather and keep out the water; that's all; and many an officious shoeblack, who carried off my shoes when I was slumbering, mistaking me for a gentleman, has had occasion to repent it before he produced a gloss on them.

My pack, in fact, was soon made, for I keep a short list of those articles which, from frequent experience, I have found indispensable to the foot-traveler; and, when I am about to start, I have only to consult that, to be sure that nothing is omitted, and, what is more important, nothing superfluous inserted. Most of my fellow-travelers carried carpet-bags, or valises. Sometimes one had two or three ponderous yellow valises in his clutch, at each hitch of the cars, as if we were going to have another rush for seats; and when there was a rush in earnest and there were not a few, I would see my man in the crowd, with two or three affectionate lusty fellows along each side of his arm, between his shoulders and his valises, which last held them tight to his back, like the nut on the end of a screw. I could not help asking in my mind, What so great cause for showing Canada to those valises, when perhaps your very nieces had to stay at home for want of an escort? I should have liked to be present when the custom-house officer came aboard of him, and asked him to declare upon his honor if he had anything but wearing apparel in them. Even the elephant carries but a small trunk on his journeys. The perfection of traveling is to travel without baggage. After considerable reflection and experience, I have concluded that the best bag for the foot-traveler is made with a handkerchief, or, if he study appearances, a piece of stiff brown paper, well tied up, with a fresh piece within to put outside when the first is torn. That is good for both town and country, and none will know but you are carrying home the silk for a new gown for your wife, when it may be a dirty shirt. A bundle which you can carry literally under your arm, and which will shrink and swell with its contents. I never found the carpet-bag of equal capacity, which was not a bundle of itself.

We styled ourselves the Knights of the Umbrella and the Bundle; for, wherever we went, whether to Notre Dame or Mount Royal or the Champ de Mars, to the Town Major's or the

Bishop's Palace, to the Citadel, with a bare-legged Highlander for our escort, or to the Plains of Abraham, to dinner or to bed, the umbrella and the bundle went with us; for we wished to be ready to digress at any moment. We made it our home nowhere in particular, but everywhere where our umbrella and bundle were. It would have been an amusing circumstance, if the Mayor of one of those cities had politely asked us where we were staying. We could only have answered, that we were staying with his Honor for the time being. I was amused when, after our return, some green ones inquired if we found it easy to get accommodated; as if we went abroad to get accommodated, when we can get that at home.

Besides the "Yankee in Canada," this book has the following articles:

"Slavery in Massachusetts, Prayers, Civil Disobedience, a Plea for Capt. John Brown, Paradise (to be) regained, Herald of Freedom, Thomas Carlyle and his works, Life without Principle, Wendell Phillips before the Concord Lyceum, the Last days of John Brown."

Thoreau was an admirer of Phillips, John Brown, and every champion of the anti-slavery cause, and he was warmly eulogistic in his praise of them, and intensely caustic in his criticisms upon conservatives and trimmers. Those who would like to review their impressions of the old anti-slavery war, will find in several of the papers in this volume some of the most vigorous and pointed writing of that time. Thoreau had little confidence in cities and their populations when questions of justice, humanity, and truth were to be decided, but he had large faith in the vigorous, honest thought of the country. Contrasting the city and the country he said:

"I am more and more convinced that, with reference to any public question, it is more important to know what the country thinks. The city does not think much. On any moral question, I would rather have the opinion of Boxboro than of Boston and New York put together. When the former speaks, I feel as though somebody had spoken, -- as if humanity was yet, and a reasonable being had asserted his rights, -- as if some unprejudiced men among the country's hills had at length turned their attention to the subject, and by a few sensible words redeemed the reputation of the race. When, in some obscure country town, the farmers come together to a special town meeting, to express their opinion on some subject which is vexing the land, that I think, is the true Congress, and the most respectable one that is ever assembled in the United States."

This volume is printed and bound in style uniform with the preceding volumes by the same author.

Curator's Corner

Anne McGrath

As I walked home from Concord Academy in the 1930s, I passed the house where the grandfather of my classmate Ellen Emerson had lived. A large, dignified mansion, square and white like the owner, it was where my parents had spent their first married summer—house sitting.

A short distance up the road on the right was a small, inconspicuous cottage, dull in color and content, where, I was told, Henry Thoreau's friend

Ellery Channing and his bride lived in wedded bliss from 1843 to 1844.

Not long ago I started up Cambridge Turnpike and was surprised and pleased to see that the honeymoon house has been painted deep blue with a large red heart at the base of the wall that faces the Emerson house. What would the Sage of Concord say?

Notes & Queries

Chip Brown, "I Now Walk into the Wild" (*New Yorker*, 8 February 1993, pp. 36-47), tells the sad, true story of Chris McCandless, who recently went into the Alaskan wilderness inspired by Thoreau and died there of starvation.

Paul Auster's latest novel, *Leviathan* (Viking), has as a central character Ben Sachs, who is "committed to the principles of Thoreau." Thoreau turns up in many of Auster's novels.

The latest volume of *Bookman's Price Index* indicates the following recent sale prices for Thoreau volumes: *Cape Cod*, first edition, \$750, \$385; *Excursions*, first, \$600, \$450; *First and Last Journeys*, \$250; *Letters to Various Persons*, \$250; *Summer*, first, \$175; *Walden*, 1864 imprint, \$325; *Walden*, first British edition, \$450; *Walden*, Bibliophile edition, \$550; *Week*, first, \$4,500; *Yankee*, first, \$500, \$200; *Writings*, Manuscript edition (20 vols.), \$4,200.

Robert Lucas, bookseller, Blandford, Massachusetts, in his latest catalog, offers the original manuscript of a letter from D. W. Stevens of 24 May 1845 to Thoreau for \$300, of a letter from Horatio Storer of 17 January 1847 to Thoreau for \$400, and a first edition *Maine Woods* for \$300.

In an article in the *New York Times* for 3 December 1992, the surviving Kennedy children write of their mother, Rose Kennedy, taking them to visit Walden Pond when they were children.

When Charles Kuralt, the television commentator and author, was asked by *Bon Appetit* (December 1992) whom he would most like to have a conversation with, he replied that he would say Thoreau except for the fact that Thoreau would not have liked Kuralt's cigars.

Paul Monette, in his autobiography, *Becoming a Man* (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992), devotes several pages to the impact Thoreau's *Walden* has had on his life and tells of his often going out to Walden Pond to read *Walden*.

Anna: A Daughter's Life, by William Loizeaux (New York: Arcade, 1993), is a memorial to the author's daughter, who died at the age of five and

a half months. "Citing *Walden*, he writes that Anna took him to the equivalent of Thoreau's woods, 'to a place he would have done anything to avoid, a place where we never would have gone on our own, where we had to live deliberately, day to day, and face the more essential facts of our lives.'"



17 October 1860

The forthcoming publication of Thoreau's manuscript, "The Dispersion of Seeds," under the title *Faith in a Seed: The Dispersion of Seeds and Other Late Natural History Writings*, edited by Bradley P. Dean, (Washington: Island Press), has won wide publicity, including a syndicated article in the *New York Times* (16 February 1993); a spread in *Publisher's Weekly* (22 February 1993); a publication party on 20 April 1993 at the New York Public Library (the manuscript is housed there in the Berg Collection); excerpts in recent issues of *Harper's*, *The Sciences*, *Audubon*, and *Pacific Discovery* magazines; interviews on CBC Radio, American Public Radio, and National Public Radio; a segment on CBS News Sunday Morning with Charles Kuralt; a dramatic reading at the Manhattan Theatre Club on 26 April 1993; and articles and reviews in several local, regional, and national newspapers. Island Press has announced that it will issue a special limited edition of the book this fall with a special binding and sheets from the first printing. Five hundred copies are planned, but the price per copy has not yet been established. Those interested in reserving a copy can contact Island Press at (800) 828-1302.

Singer-pianist-bandleader Harry Connick, Jr., appeared in court in December after JFK Airport security guards caught him carrying an unloaded pistol while trying to board a plane. When the judge asked Connick about the incident, Connick replied that he didn't know it was illegal. The judge chided him, saying, "You would have to have been livin' at Walden Pond not to have known it was illegal."

On 20 April 1993 the Walden Woods Project held a press conference at the Omni Parker House in Boston to announce that it had successfully negotiated with Boston Properties for the purchase of 18.6 acres on Brister's Hill (see lead article above). Boston Properties had planned to build an office-building/parking-lot complex on

the site, which is located at the northeast corner of Route 2 and Highway 126, a few hundred yards from Walden Pond. The purchase price for the property was \$3.5 million; \$2.5 million will be loaned to the Walden Woods Project by the Trust for Public Land, and the remaining \$1 million will be paid by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management to purchase a conservation restriction assuring that the property is preserved in perpetuity as publicly accessible open space. Boston Properties has loaned the Walden Woods Project \$500,000 interest free for 18 months to cover initial acquisition costs. The Thoreau Society congratulates the Walden Woods Project—and particularly founder Don Henley and director Kathi Anderson—for its remarkable achievement in preserving this important tract of land in Thoreau's Walden woods.

To celebrate its achievements, the Walden Woods Project is sponsoring a gala celebration at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel on 22 May 1993. There will be a reception at 7 p.m., with dinner at 8 p.m. After dinner, Congressman Gerry E. Studds will be presented the Walden Woods Project's 1993 Environmental Service Award, and musician James Taylor will perform for the celebrants. Entrance to the gala is by invitation only, with a per-plate charge of \$250; those interested in attending should contact the Walden Woods Project at (800) 554-3569.



17 October 1860

The Second Annual Walk for Walden Woods will take place on Sunday, 23 May 1993, in Concord. Registration will begin at 10 a.m., there will be a pre-walk rally at noon, and the walk will begin at 1 p.m. rain or shine. The walk will be led by Don Henley, Jason Priestly, Sarah Jessica Parker, Peter Weller, Matthew Broderick, Ed Begley, Jr., and TV character Bart Simpson. Registration fees are \$10 for individuals and \$25 for families, but the fees will be waived if walkers raise the amount of their fees or more in pledges. No pets are allowed on the walk. Special MBTA trains will run to and from the walk, and special shuttle busses will run to and from the train station to the walk site. For more information, contact the Walden Woods Project at (800) 554-3569.

On 8 June 1993 at 8 p.m. Thomas H. Watkins, vice president of the Wilderness Society and editor of *Wilderness* magazine, will deliver a presentation on "John Muir and the Great

Community" at the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School Auditorium in Concord in commemoration of Muir's 1893 pilgrimage to Concord. According to Court Booth of Concord-Carlisle Community Education, the presentation, which is open to the public at no charge, is the first of many Muir-related cultural events that will take place during the next twelve months. The Thoreau Society is one of twenty-one organizations involved in mounting this educational series. Additional organizations and interested individuals should contact Booth at (508) 371-9450.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Education awarded Bradley P. Dean the first National Environmental Education Henry David Thoreau Award. EPA Administrator Carol Browner hosted the awards ceremony, which took place at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., on 4 May 1993. Earlier that day Dean met with Vice President Al Gore at the White House and presented him with a copy of the new book by Thoreau, *Faith in a Seed*.

Russian Thoreau scholar Nikita Pokrovsky has been visiting professor of sociology and international communications at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, since January. In a recent article in the Worcester *Telegram & Gazette* (24 March 1993), Pokrovsky is quoted as saying that he has not gone to many stores while in the United States. "I don't want to see all that prosperity," he says. "I buy simple food. When I see luxury and consumption, I think of my family, my friends, my students, and all those I don't know who are deprived of all this."

The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an informal gathering of students and admirers of Henry David Thoreau. Joel Myerson, president; Eric Parkman Smith, treasurer; Bradley P. Dean, secretary. Dues: \$20; students \$10; family \$35; benefactor \$100; life \$500. The Society maintains an educational and retail center, the Thoreau Lyceum, at 156 Belknap Street, Concord, MA 01742, tel: (508) 369-5912; and an administrative center in the Department of English at East Carolina University. Address communications to the secretary at the Thoreau Society, Inc., Department of English, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, tel: (919) 355-0620, fax: (919) 355-5280.